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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
Fifty-third session
Geneva, 3-21 August 1998

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The fifty-third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will be held at the United Nations Office in Geneva from 3 to 21 August 1998. The first meeting of the session will be convened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 3 August. The last meeting will be convened at 3 p.m. on Friday, 21 August.

2. This document contains the provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Committee, prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure, together with annotations relating thereto.

3. The attention of States parties is drawn, in particular, to the tentative timetable for consideration of reports and further information submitted by States parties, for consideration of States parties whose reports are seriously overdue pursuant to the review procedure, and for consideration of States parties pursuant to early warning measures and urgent action procedures.

4. In accordance with rule 64 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of the States parties are invited to be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined.

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Organizational and other matters.

3. Prevention of racial discrimination, including early warning measures and urgent action procedures.

4. Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention.

5. Submission of reports by States parties under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

6. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the annual report submitted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

7. Consideration of communications under article 14 of the Convention.

8. Consideration of copies of petitions, copies of reports and other information relating to Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and to all other territories in which General Assembly resolution 1524 (XV) applies, in conformity with article 15 of the Convention.

9. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 8 of the rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda of any session shall be the adoption of the agenda. In accordance with rule 9, the Committee may revise the agenda during a session and may, as appropriate, add, defer or delete items.

2. Organizational and other matters

Under this item, the Committee will consider its programme of work for the fifty-third session. In particular, the Committee decided at the fifty-second session that it will address, inter alia, the World Conference against Racism and Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the form of its concluding observations, the briefing of delegations, the question of the venue of its meetings, three proposed General Recommendations, reservations to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination and its liaison activities with other human rights organizations.

3. Prevention of racial discrimination, including early warning measures and urgent action procedures

The Committee decided at its forty-fifth session to establish this as one of its regular and principal agenda items. Within the framework of its efforts to prevent racial discrimination, the Committee may decide to take early warning measures aimed at preventing existing problems from escalating into conflicts; or it may decide to initiate urgent action procedures aimed at responding to problems requiring immediate attention to prevent or limit the scale or number of serious violations of the Convention. The Committee may also take action or further action regarding States parties already considered under this item.

Pursuant to decisions taken at its fifty-second session, the Committee has scheduled, at its fifty-third session, consideration of the situation in the following States parties: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. The Committee may, at its discretion, schedule the consideration of other States parties at short notice.

In pursuance of established practice, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which they are scheduled for consideration by the Committee. The scheduling of the Committee's consideration of States parties under this item is set forth in the timetable below.

4. Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention

At its fifty-third session, the Committee will consider reports received from the following States parties: Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Gabon, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Nepal, Niger and Tonga.

Pursuant to a decision taken at its fifty-second session, the Committee has scheduled, at its fifty-third session, a review of the implementation of the Convention in one State party, Haiti, that has previously submitted reports but from which periodic reports are seriously overdue.

In addition, the Committee has scheduled a review of the implementation in one State party, Estonia, whose initial report is seriously overdue.

In pursuance of established practice and in conformity with rule 64 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their respective reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee. The scheduling of the Committee's consideration of reports submitted and review of the implementation of the Convention in the State party whose report is excessively overdue is set forth in the timetable below.

5. Submission of reports by States parties under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention

At its fifty-third session, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General concerning the status of submission of reports by States parties in accordance with article 9 of the Convention (CERD/C/342). Part A of that document indicates reports received from States parties and pending consideration by the Committee. Part B of the document contains information relating to overdue reports.

6. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the annual report submitted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention

Following a request made by the Committee at its seventh session in 1973, this item is included yearly on the Committee's provisional agenda.

Pursuant to article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the annual report of the Committee, covering its activities during the fiftieth and fifty-first session, was submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session. The Committee will have before it the report and relevant summary records of the Third Committee, and relevant General Assembly resolutions.

7. Consideration of communications under article 14 of the Convention

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVIII of its rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are or appear to be submitted to it under article 14 of the Convention.

In accordance with rule 88 of the rules of procedure, the meetings of the Committee during which communications under article 14 of the Convention are examined shall be closed.

8. Consideration of copies of petitions, copies of reports and other information relating to Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and to all other territories in which General Assembly resolution 1524 (XV) applies, in conformity with article 15 of the Convention

Under this item, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General (CERD/C/343) concerning article 15 of the Convention and listing, as appropriate, copies of petitions, reports and working papers relating to the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

At its 1272nd meeting at the fifty-second session, the Committee appointed Mr. van Boven, expert from the Netherlands, to examine documents made available to the Committee in order for it to perform its functions pursuant to article 15 of the Convention, and requested him to make a report to the Committee at its fifty-third session.

9. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

At its 695th meeting (thirtieth session) in August 1994, the Committee decided to keep this item on its agenda and requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the relevant activities which would be undertaken in accordance with the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, and subsequently the Programme of Action for the Third Decade.

10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention

In accordance with article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Committee is to submit, through the Secretary-General, an annual report to the General Assembly. The 1998 report to the fifty-third session of the Assembly is to cover the activities of the Committee at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions.

Tentative timetable for consideration of reports, comments and further information submitted by States parties, for consideration of States parties whose reports are seriously overdue pursuant to the review procedure, and for consideration of States parties pursuant to early warning measures and urgent action procedures

The following timetable has been drawn up by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman, taking into account the relevant decisions taken by the Committee at its fifty-second session.

Monday, 3 August 1998 (1275th and 1276th meetings)

Croatia 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Yutzis)	Initial, second and third periodic reports, due in 1992, 1994 and 1996, submitted in one document (CERD/C/290/Add.1)

Tuesday, 4 August 1998 (1277th and 1278th meetings)

Croatia	(continued)
Cyprus 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Rechetov)	Fourteenth periodic report due in 1996 (CERD/C/299/Add.19)

Wednesday, 5 August 1998 (1279th and 1280th meetings)

Cyprus	(continued)
Cuba 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mrs. Sadiq Ali)	Tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth periodic reports, due in 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1997, submitted in one document (CERD/C/319/Add.4)

Thursday, 6 August 1998 (1281st and 1282nd meetings)

Cuba	(continued)
Kuwait 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Yutzis)	Thirteenth and fourteenth periodic reports, due in 1994 and 1996, submitted in one document (CERD/C/299/Add.16)

Friday, 7 August 1998 (1283rd and 1284th meetings)

Kuwait	(continued)
Bosnia and Herzegovina 3/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Nobel)	Special report (CERD/C/247 and Add.1), considered at the 1082nd and 1092nd meetings in 1995, and further considered at the 1153rd and 1182nd meetings in 1996, the 1236th meeting in 1997, and the 1271st meeting in 1998

Monday, 10 August 1998 (1285th and 1286th meetings)

Haiti 2/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Lechuga Hevia)	Eighth and ninth periodic reports (CERD/C/195/Add.1), considered at the 879th meeting in 1990
Estonia 2/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Garvalov)	
Discussion of article 15 (Special Rapporteur: Mr. van Boven)	
Gabon 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Nobel)	Second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth reports, due in 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997 (CERD/C/315/Add.1)

Tuesday, 11 August 1998 (1287th and 1288th meetings)

Gabon	(continued)
Jordan 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Banton)	Ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth periodic reports, due in 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1997, submitted in one document (CERD/C/318/Add.1)

Wednesday, 12 August 1998 (1289th and 1290th meetings)

Jordan	(continued)
Morocco 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Rechetov)	Twelfth and thirteenth periodic reports, due in 1994 and 1996, submitted in one document (CERD/C/298/Add.4)

Thursday, 13 August 1998 (1291st and 1292nd meetings)

Morocco	(continued)
Nepal 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Nobel)	Ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth periodic reports, due in 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, submitted in one document (CERD/C/298/Add.1)

Friday, 14 August 1998 (1293rd and 1294th meetings)

Nepal	(continued)
Democratic Republic of Congo 3/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfrum)	Tenth periodic report (CERD/C/278/Add.1), considered at the 1171st to 1173rd meetings in 1996, and further considered at the 1240th meeting in 1997, and its 1271st meeting in 1998

Monday, 17 August 1998 (1295th and 1296th meetings)

Rwanda 3/ (Country Rapporteur: Ms. McDougall)	Seventh periodic report (CERD/C/169/Add.1), considered at the 839th meeting in 1989, and further considered at the 1027th and 1045th meetings in 1994, the 1153rd meeting in 1996, the 1212th meeting in 1997, and the 1263rd meeting in 1998
Niger 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Diaconu)	Eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth periodic reports, due in 1990, 1992, 1994 and 1996, submitted in one document (CERD/C/299/Add.18)

Tuesday, 18 August 1998 (1297th and 1298th meetings)

Niger	(continued)
Tonga 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Lechuga Hevia)	Eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth periodic reports, due in 1993, 1995 and 1997, submitted in one document (CERD/C/319/Add.3)

Wednesday, 19 August 1998 (1299th and 1300th meetings)

Tonga	(continued)

Notes

1/ Periodic report.

2/ Review procedure (for States parties whose reports are seriously overdue).

3/ Early warning measures and urgent action procedures.